

Richmond Times-Dispatch

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SATURDAY, DECEMBER 19, 1914.

A WORTH-WHILE GIFT—You can make your friends happy every day in the year by sending them a subscription to THE RICHMOND TIMES-DISPATCH.

5 MORE SHOPPING DAYS BEFORE CHRISTMAS!
ALL ON ONE HAND!
DO THE REST OF YOUR CHRISTMAS SHOPPING ON THE FIRST ONE!

Another Cry for Tax Reform

SIXTY Virginia counties pay into the State Treasury less than they receive from it! Of course, we all know that something like that was the fact, but its repetition in the annual report of State Auditor Moore lends it a new emphasis and strengthens the imperative duty of the General Assembly, at its approaching special session, to enact a sensible and comprehensive scheme of tax reform.

Good Virginia counties, like good Virginia men, should be ashamed of themselves if they are not at least self-supporting.

Related Justice to Property Owners

RELATED justice is on its tardy and reluctant way to owners of Richmond real estate, who, under existing regulations, are required either to pull the Gas Department's chestnuts out of the fire or permit their property to go unoccupied. The Council Committee on Ordinances has recommended the passage of an ordinance that will relieve house owners of liability for the gas bills of delinquent tenants.

Certainly, the existing situation is a very pleasant one for the Gas Department, which is relieved of all necessity of worrying over collections, but no other justification for it has ever been offered. It represents, in fact, the exercise of a merely arbitrary power. The city has insured itself against loss and compelled an innocent bystander, a sufferer himself from similar casualties, to pay the premium on the policy.

It is impossible, of course, to restrain the sympathetic tears that flow in response to the Gas Department's vocal agonies and obvious distress of spirit. Perhaps, however, if it will inquire of its competitor in the business of furnishing light to Richmond consumers, it will find out how to stand without a prop.

Germany's Estimate of American Opinion

IT was with some pride, and perhaps a little astonishment, that this country realized how high a value each of the warring nations placed on that most unanalyzable thing, the "moral support" of the United States. Each belligerent told us that it and it alone merited our good wishes, if not our prayers. Germany, in particular, spared no pains to win us.

A palpable change, however, has come over the high value that Germany at first placed on American opinion. Authoritative German newspapers declare that President Wilson will not do as a mediator, because the United States is preponderantly for the allies. They also publish unsigned letters from prominent German-Americans, intimating that we are hypocrites, that we pretend to be much wrought up over the "alleged" ill-treatment of Belgium, but that all that Germany needs to do is to be victorious, and the vast majority of Americans will shout for the Kaiser, for, they say, Americans never sided with a loser. In short, the citizens of this country are a pretty poor lot, and their good opinion is not worth having.

Not only this, but the methods of German warfare go more than a little distance to prove that the respect for American opinion is more verbal than actual. In the privacy of their own hearts, the Germans believe that they are above anybody's good or bad opinion. In fact, some of their leading publicists have said so.

The Richest Copper of Them All

NEW YORK'S richest policeman, William McGuire, has retired, and will spend the winter in Florida on the earnings of his fortune of more than \$100,000. This recalls the fact that some time ago, when a story was published of his wealth, paragraphs all over the country rushed to inquire where he got it. McGuire explains that he started getting it as follows:

Having been appointed a policeman, he spent his time policing, making a splendid record. From his small wages he set aside a certain sum for future investment, until he had enough to buy a piece of property that stood in the path of development. This he sold for ten times what he paid for it, and the money he reinvested in other property, which he turned over in the same way, at a nice

profit. He kept on doing it. He also kept on policing. He let liquor and cards and racing strictly alone, and kept out of the political rings. When his work was finished he gave some of his time to his real estate business and the rest to his family.

Accepting McGuire's story of his rise, it is a safe ten-to-one bet that the inquiry, "How did he get it?" started among people who hadn't succeeded in getting any for themselves, because they spent their spare time wasting their wages, instead of saving up and trying to better their condition. Always there are plenty to ask where the other fellow got it, and, as a rule, these solicitous inquirers are pushing another stack into the centre of the poker table as they ask the question. Any man can get a little, and get it honestly, if he makes it his business to go about getting it.

Giving the Railroads a Chance

ALTHOUGH the announcement had been discounted liberally, and was expected with confidence, the Interstate Commerce Commission's grant of the 5 per cent rate increase asked by the Eastern railroads is of overshadowing importance to this country. Second only to the inauguration of the Federal reserve banking system, it is the most valuable single contribution to the nation's return to a solid prosperity.

There can be no real and permanent prosperity for the United States unless the railroads are permitted to share in it. An industry with a capital stock and bonded debt of approximately \$20,000,000,000, gross earnings of \$3,000,000,000, with something like 1,750,000 employees in normal times, and with its securities owned by tens of thousands of persons, cannot suffer without extending its unhappy influence throughout the land. When railroad operation ceases to be profitable, shareholders have their incomes decreased, necessary retrenchments result in vast additions to the army of the unemployed, locomotive and car manufacturing plants shut down or reduce their output. Few of us are either too rich or too poor to escape this particular depression's blighting hand.

The railroads have not been prosperous, despite the wholesale economies they have practiced and the thousands of men they have cut from the payroll. Everything they have had to buy, including labor, has increased in price, while rates have remained stationary or been reduced. Gross income has not, indeed, could not, save in a country-wide condition of tremendous prosperity, keep pace with these demands on the railroad purse. Membership on the Interstate Commerce Commission has not been necessary for observance of or proper deductions from these patent facts.

At last, at any rate, the increase has been allowed, in substantial accordance with the sufferers' plea. To Richmond, as The Times-Dispatch said the other day, it should mean much, in reviving industry and reduced unemployment. Orders for locomotives and other equipment, which the roads soon will be in position to give, should result in the reopening of the city's greatest manufacturing plant. Business has a new and substantial reason for holding up its head and looking the world in the face.

Richmond Knows What She Wants

STRONGLY expressed preference by Richmond banking institutions, by the Chamber of Commerce, Business Men's Club and other organizations, for the purchase by the government of the property adjoining the Federal Building, rather than for the acquisition of a site at Eighth and Main Streets and the erection there of a separate post-office structure, should have weight with Treasury officials. To say the least of it, Richmond business men are as competent as post-office inspectors to determine what will best advance the city's interests and most facilitate the transaction of government business here.

The Times-Dispatch, which has no interest in the matter save that of the ordinary citizen, believes the government owes it to the syndicate which controls the Eleventh and Main Streets site, and to Richmond as well, to make a substantial effort to acquire that property at a price within the appropriation. It was withheld from development at the request of the government and of Richmond organizations interested in seeing erected here a convenient and monumental Federal Building, which would be supplied by contemplated additions to the existing structure. If the price fixed is too high, the government can determine that fact by condemnation proceedings. If then it shall appear that the property cannot be acquired within the limits of the \$450,000 appropriation, it will be time to think of another site.

Diving Under Disaster

HERE is a new one. We had thought all the novelties of war had been exhausted when an airship dropped a bomb, destroying a small ship, and, under fire of a cruiser, a submarine lobbed up, rescued swimming men and dived to safety with them. Readers of war news believed the unusual had been achieved when submarine warriors dug from their trench to the trench of the enemy, burrowed under it, laid a mine and then from a safe distance set it off.

But Submarine B-11, of the royal navy, has added one. She first located a mine in five rows. Then, against a stiff current, she dived under that mine, came up on the other side, torpedoed a Turkish battleship, and escaped without a scratch.

With all these remarkable manoeuvres succeeding, we beg, with the modesty of a layman, to again call attention to an early suggestion that all wars might be fought by wireless. Let the enemies simultaneously locate and destroy magazines from the safe distance of 1,000 miles by electric spark. That may sound foolish to-day, but it sounds certainly no more foolish than did the insane suggestions of Jules Verne, all of which have now been distanced by the cold facts of scientific warfare.

If it be true that there are antiwar riots in Austria-Hungary, it would seem that the awakening came long after the alarm clock exploded.

Allies have heated trenches and gramophone concerts for the winter. It ought to be easy to install porcelain bathtubs.

As a profitable employment, trying to create a war scare in the U. S. A. ranks with reading the dictionary backwards.

Whether to be a Spug or a Spender is a Christmas problem that solves itself by the visible supply of Spoudulux.

Americans are warned not to criticize Turks in letters to friends in Turkey. Some people are very sensitive.

SONGS AND SAWS

Lemons.
Said the fair suffragette: "It is tough
To choose gifts for the poor (the loaf)
But between you and me,
I have picked out just three:
That I think will be quite the
right stuff."
"Perhaps if I box them with
care
And drop at the anti-loaf lair,
On this glad Christmas Day
I can get rid for aye
Of Panky and her daughters fair."

Uncle Zack's Philosophy.
De Crismus prospect at my house am gittin' mighty dalk. De german wat he want, yuhd in de nex' street hab done kill his tuckey and put er away in de ice box.

Turn About.
She—You are not wearing any longer the watch your Uncle Fred gave you.
He—No, but I'm wearing an overcoat purchased with the cash another avuncular relative advanced me.

The Psalmist Says:
"Laugh and the world laughs with you"—or at least you think that the world is doing. Sometimes, of course, it is laughing at you for making such an unpleasant noise over nothing.

Going the Limit.
Grubbs—Have you done your Christmas shopping early?
Stubbs—You bet I have! And late. And long. And expensively. And disastrously to my pocketbook. In fact, I have followed every rule, and am going to be happy next Friday if it bankrupts me.

Progress.
Slight cold.
Over-bold.
Over-ambitious.
No generalship.
Bells tolled.
Just mold.

THE TATTLER.

War News Fifty Years Ago

(From the Richmond Dispatch, Dec. 19, 1864.)

The only accounts that we have of the operations in front of Nashville come to us through the Northern papers, General Hood having not seen proper to make any report, at least not any that the War Department is willing to make public. These reports from the North are, of course, accepted with caution, but they seem to be in the main correct. There can be no doubt that, after gaining an expensive victory at Franklin, gaining it through the valor of his troops and in spite of the most reckless generalship, or, more properly speaking, in spite of all—Hood has now sustained a most stunning defeat before Nashville, where he had no business to go.

On the right of the Confederate lines, beyond the Appomattox River, yesterday the enemy fired a shotted salute of thirty-four guns. Deserter who came in yesterday and last night report that the firing was in honor of the victory of the Confederates at Nashville. The salute was not continued, and the firing at the Confederate lines as on similar previous occasions.

From Southwest Virginia comes the information that the enemy destroyed the depot at Wytheville, and that they are still trying to make their way to the Virginia salt works, with the view of destroying the same. On the way it is said that they destroyed three engines of the Virginia and Tennessee Railway.

The news comes that the enemy with their gunboats destroyed a Confederate blockade ship on the Savannah River and captured another. The report lacks confirmation.

The reports from Petersburg are without special interest. There was some firing of artillery on the left yesterday afternoon, which was responded to by the Confederate guns, but it all soon died out, and it is said that the casualties were not worth reporting.

There is an impression all along the lines, both in front of Petersburg and Richmond, that the private soldiers, the men who do the real fighting, have the Christmas holiday idea in their minds and are rather slow to obey the orders of officers. The effect has been silently issued that there shall be but little, if any, fighting this year. Heaven only knows what the New Year will bring to pass.

Abraham Lincoln's emancipation proclamation and the negro slave are selling high on the Richmond market. Auctioneers who took place yesterday prove this to be a fact.

Richmond children are being told that Santa Claus has been "arrested" by the Lincoln government, and will be allowed to cross the line. Nevertheless, stockings will be hung up in the chimney corners as in the old times.

The theatres are taking advantage of the Yuletide time, and all of them will be in full blast all of this week, and probably all of the next week.

Current Editorial Comment

Foreign Trade Grows Fast
Ever since the later weeks of October there has been evidence that this country's position in foreign trade was improving rapidly. The dislocation of ocean commerce, consequent on the outbreak of war, has been a temporary break of war, and the export trade in August \$57,500,000 below last year, and the surplus of exports for that month in 1914, the result was a \$19,000,000 excess of exports. Even in October, though the surplus of exports in exports was \$31,600,000 under last year, the decrease was being \$76,500,000. November tells a different story. The export trade was still nearly \$40,000,000 below last year, and, instead of the usual November figures, and the surplus of exports, which fell only \$17,700,000 short of last year's figures, was actually greater than in any but three of the previous November reports.

It is possible that the State would make an appropriation under certain conditions, provided that a consolidated orphanage would care for the orphans for war-torn Europe. I should be very pleased to give an expression through your columns, and shall take pleasure in co-operating to carry out the scheme, as yet not fully developed, when the plans shall have been carefully and thoughtfully made.

Just What Government Should Do
Within the last few weeks there has been a turn for the better in the business world. The first harmful effects of the world war are passing and normal conditions are beginning to reappear. Some dissatisfaction, of course, will always exist. A few days ago, for instance, something happened which some business men hold. A Milwaukee man was damning the government because he is not making so much money as he did few years ago. "You are a rich man," he was told, "and you still have a very large income." This made him more furious than ever. "I tell you the United States is going straight to destruction," he vehemently asserted. "It developed a law which had given him special privileges had been modified, and for this reason he thinks, or says, that government is a failure. When government enabled him to exact tribute from an innocent third party, the people, then government was his friend and a pronounced success, but when government stepped in and lifted at least a portion of this unjust burden from the shoulders of the people, government, in his opinion, became worthless—an institution to revile and to damn."—Milwaukee Journal.

One Poet Who Made a Living
It is cheering news that Professor Schelling gives out that Shakespeare in the latter part of his career enjoyed an income of \$10,000 per annum. Translated into present purchasing power, this would amount to \$50,000 a year, making the poet enjoy the income of a millionaire. We are glad of it, because we think the poet earned the money. There is no poet of the present who enjoys any such income, and we do not think there has been any since his time, although some eighteenth-century writers got large sums in royalties. There are not many professional poets in this day, but we do not regret the loss of \$5,000 a year. Poetry doesn't pay, largely because of the public. We feel certain that if

to-day a man with the genius of Shakespeare should arise he would soon have the income of a multimillionaire. That's just the trouble. There is no such poet. If he comes along his only worry will be over investing his income.—Philadelphia Inquirer.

Chats With Virginia Editors

That bridge for which Editor Magninus seems to have contended in vain with the Radford Town Council is now a figurative Bridge of Sighs, measuring neither length nor breadth. The Magninus is convinced that there is thick-ness, but not at his end of the bridge.

Editor Lacy, of the Halifax Gazette, attended divine services last Sunday. The Gazette believes in printing the news. Hence this editorial note: "It took a conscientious man to leave a good warm fire and go to church last Sunday, if we do say it ourselves, that shouldn't." We assume that he fasts thrice a week, gives tithes to the poor and rejoices in the consciousness that he is not like some of his Philistine contemporaries.

"If Europe would follow the example of Halifax and kill off all the hogs, the war would die a natural death," says the Franklin Chronicle. Eliminating the British lion, the Russian bear, the German eagle, the Egyptian camel and the Japanese dragon, we deduce that Editor Willis is trying to put France on the hog.

Says the Bristol Herald-Courier: "Parrots are said to be among the longest lived of birds, but very few parrots have lived as long as your Uncle Joe Cannon." Then, too, Uncle Joe, although a bird, has lost much of his plumage, and must occupy a lower perch in the congressional roost.

Discussing the absence of late reports of hostilities in Mexico, Editor Showalter, of the Stanton News, remarks: "Mexico has temporarily subsided." It signifies nothing. Everything is temporary in Mexico.

Says the Roanoke World-News: "We all must die some day, says Yuan Shi Kai. Therefore, let us die bravely—if necessary, on the field of battle. There's much sound reason in what Yuan believes." Yet you might search the Chinese army list, showing officers in the field, in vain for the name of that greatest of Celestial political "strongarms."

The Voice of the People

"Seeing Things" vs. "Seeing Truth."

To the Editor of The Times-Dispatch:
Sir—I have read with interest the ravings of "Observer" concerning the doings of the surface women of Richmond. She has been "seeing things" which are unreal, and yet has missed the reality of their altruism in befriending the working people. It is so disturbed for fear suffragists will disregard "the channels cut for women by their Maker," that she overlooks the spirit of their work. Her religious appeal is indeed touching.

She does not discern that instead of their recent doings being "opposed to God's unalterable will," that they are in harmony with the teachings of the Great Leader who uttered His words of wisdom: "I have made the earth too burdensome to be borne," and "touch not the burdens with one of their fingers." The fanatics of conservatism of these days, like those in the days of old, feel no responsibility to lift the burdens of the people. Not so with suffragists. They feel the appeal of the religion of brotherhood and sisterhood in the great human family.

I would commend to "Observer" the words of Holy Writ, "Be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect will of God."

A BIBLICAL SUFFRAGIST.

Richmond, December 16, 1914.

Street Car Transfers.
To the Editor of The Times-Dispatch:
Sir—I would like to suggest to the Virginia Railway and Power Company, now giving excellent service to the Richmond public, that it look to the matter of transfers.

How many transfers are given for one fare? I have understood two or three. For instance, a passenger on a car going west on Broad Street wishes to go to the 300 block on Main Street—East or West Main—can he transfer from Broad to Laurel Street and again from Laurel to East Main, thus receiving two transfers for his nickel or ticket? Of course, it would be simpler, by his walking south to Main Street and getting his transfer to East Main, but if he is on Broad Street and does not take the car, can he have one or two or three transfers for his one fare?

When a passenger pays his fare and asks for a transfer, he does not use it in the next five minutes or so soon after he takes the car, and in the desired direction? That is my understanding. There are persons I know of, from misapprehension or design, hold a transfer for more hours to make a call, or while away the time.

I would not feel it was honest to do anything but take the transfer and use it on the next car going my way. There are others who think differently.

Richmond, December 17, 1914.

Urges Consolidation of Orphanages.
To the Editor of The Times-Dispatch:

Sir:—In communication from South Richmond, of this date, entitled, "Orphan Home Asks Help," a request for help to support the orphanage is made. Such a request is not unusual, and is frequently heard in every community in which orphanage is located. There does not seem to be any definite fund upon which the managers can rely for the support of the orphans entrusted to their care, and they must appeal to the public from time to time. I have suggested to me that it would be pleased to hear from others who might be interested, and that is, a consolidation of the orphanages throughout the State, thus bringing to the orphanage for war-torn Europe one management. Combining their income and efforts would probably enable employment of competent instructors in the manufacture of simple furniture and shoes, commercial printing and other crafts, and business girls could be taught domestic and business sciences, by which both boys and girls would be equipped to earn a livelihood on leaving the orphanage, and also a considerable income might be derived for the institution by a series of lectures made by the orphans.

It is possible that the State would make an appropriation under certain conditions, provided that a consolidated orphanage would care for the orphans for war-torn Europe. I should be very pleased to give an expression through your columns, and shall take pleasure in co-operating to carry out the scheme, as yet not fully developed, when the plans shall have been carefully and thoughtfully made.

J. E. PERKINSON.

Danville, Va., December 17, 1914.

The Bright Side of Life

Knaship.
Jovial Briton (espousing a member of the Scotch Guard)—Shake 'ands, of man—shake 'ands. I'm half Scotch—other half—hie—soda water.—London Opinion.

The Square Deal.
"Look here!" said an excited man to a druggist. "You gave me morphine for quinine this morning."
"Is that so?" replied the druggist. "Then you owe me 25 cents."—Christian Register.

Decline Argument.
The Oracle—Aha! You may depend upon that if this 'ere Kaiser is a leadin' of 'is troops 'isef, then leadin' 'em 'e is; but if 'e ain't—wy, then, 'ow can 'e be?—Sketch.

A Windy Fancy.
"The wind," said Mrs. Twickenbury, "was blowing at a terrific velocipede."—Christian Register.

Very Religious.
Parke—Isn't Peterkin very religious?
Lane—Oh, yes, I hear he goes to church every month or so.—Life.

THE YULETIDE

One of the Day's Best Cartoons.



—From the Nashville Tennessean.

GERMAN BOGY SCARES CANADA

FORT ERIE, ONT., December 18.—With one citizen locked up on a charge of treason, foreigners "sniping" the members of the militia, private dinners interrupted by the soldiers and the guests in danger of arrest, if they sing German songs, and with more than 100 prisoners of war, the nerves of people along the Niagara frontier are in a rather jumpy state.

The people are uneasy because every now and then rumors go the rounds that the Germans are mobilizing across the river in Buffalo prepared to repeat the famous Fenian raid. Only a few weeks ago the Canadian troops were mobilized in Toronto because of a story that the Germans were about to attack the city. Two days ago there was more excitement when a rumor got about that a German in Toronto had succeeded in sending a trunkful of plans to the Kaiser.

None of the prisoners has been definitely charged with being a spy. They are all locked up as prisoners of war. The Niagara frontier is generally regarded as the territory from Lake Erie, where the little village of Fort Erie faces Buffalo, thirty miles to the east of the Niagara River, where the old French fort now used as a United States army post under the name of Fort Niagara looks out over the ruins of the old French fort. The Canadian guard of two companies of the Nineteenth Infantry is at the power station at Niagara Falls, Ont., which is directly opposite Niagara Falls, N. Y. This guard, of course, is not armed with the numerous customs and immigration officials stationed along the frontier.

Inspectors Made Arrests.
It is the immigration inspectors in fact who are responsible for most of the trouble. They are men who have already been taken into custody. These prisoners are men who have time to serve as reservists in the German or Austrian army. The soldiers who are guarding these prisoners say that in a great many instances they express satisfaction at having been captured, as it gives them an excuse for failing to return to the colors. In fact, the immigration inspectors, who are responsible for most of the trouble, are men who have already been taken into custody. These prisoners are men who have time to serve as reservists in the German or Austrian army. The soldiers who are guarding these prisoners say that in a great many instances they express satisfaction at having been captured, as it gives them an excuse for failing to return to the colors.

The capture of one Paul Jockel bordered on the sensational. Jockel had been the manager of a large manufacturing plant in Toronto and had remained in his position after the war broke out, and later was notified by one of the German consuls in the United States that a German reservist he was expected to report to the military. Jockel, a wife and child, broke all speed records in a motor car in his hurry to get to the port of Erie, where he was taken to the military camp, where he was to be held until he was released at the conclusion of the war.

Better Off as Prisoner.
"If it is really your wife and child you care for," Colonel Rose is quoted as saying, "you will be better off here as a prisoner of war. If you were returned to Germany, you might be shot in battle."

So Jockel was arrested and placed with the other prisoners at Welland, Ont. Later Jockel admitted that the wife and child were not his, and that he had taken them with him to play upon the sympathies of the soldiers. Two days later Jockel declared he had been relieved of a large amount of jewelry by the soldiers. The soldiers admitted that they had relieved Jockel of his automobile and most of his money, but denied the jewelry story. A few days ago two of the prisoners made a statement that Jockel told the military officer believing that the commanding officer would release him rather than have a scandal, whether true or not.

Jovo Karosova, also a prisoner, was taken as a result of the attempts to "snipe" soldiers along the Welland Canal. He is accused of firing a shot which whizzed right in front of Lieutenant McCormick's nose. There had been considerable potshooting at the soldiers from people living in the Hungaria settlement just south of Welland proper. Finally the troops searched the colony and took all the guns they could find. The soldiers feel that the moral effect of Karosova's arrest has already been manifested, because there has been no more shooting at the soldiers.

Joseph Snyder, an old farmer, eighteen miles from Buffalo on the Canadian shore, is the one prisoner that is being held for treason. The penalty, if convicted, is death. There is much sympathy for Snyder because of his age, and because even the soldiers do not believe that he appreciated the seriousness of his offense.

Smuggled Germans Across.
Snyder's farm is near the river, and it has been his custom, so the military authorities declare, to house German and Austrian reservists in his barn until an opportune time came to smuggle them across the river to the United States.

After a warning, the military authorities laid a trap for Snyder and arrested him. Snyder is in the county jail at Welland and will be tried at the next session of the court.

No Apparent Difference.
(From the Rochester Herald.)
Some one is protesting against the introduction of "heathen savages" in the European war. If they were any worse than "Christian savages,"

Worse and Worse.
(From the Boston Transcript.)
Those soldiers are a good deal like Congressmen—the more they're on the more they cost the taxpayers.

Flagrant Dishonesty.
(From the Cleveland Plain Dealer.)
A nugget of gold has been found in the crop of a Maryland chicken. Will it never be possible to keep dishonest farmers from weighting their fowls in this manner?

A Hollow Mockery.
(From the Detroit Free Press.)
To the men in the trenches the "peace on earth and good will to men" Christmas carols will sound like a hollow mockery.